

FROM HAVANA.

No Later News from Mexico—Bravos of the Group—Humor About a Naval Fight Between the Alabama and the Vanderbilt—A Coalition of the Havana Grocers.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, June 20, 1863.

Not an item of news worth relating can I find to send you. Not a word have we from Mexico since my last, nor from South America. Nothing has transpired here to relieve the excessive heat which has been the order of the day, the only variation of which has been now and then a shower. Still, as yet, we have no yellow fever, save a few light cases in the harbor, and four reported to-day in the Military Hospital. The form of diphtheria here called the group still continues its ravages. I know of four families that have been entirely swept off within a month; one within a week. A gentleman, born in Florida, has lost in that time who and three children, and his mother is not expected to live. Our physicians do not seem to understand the disease, and medicaments, and even surgery, successful in some cases, seem to hasten a fatal termination in others.

The Spanish mail steamer, from Cadiz, arrived yesterday with four days later news, but containing nothing of interest to your readers, nor anything that you will not already have received, save perhaps an item I see in the *Boletin de Puerto Rico* of the 3d, which says:

"**NEWS OF THE ALABAMA.**—By the English steamer arrived yesterday, from St. Thomas, we learn that the Alabama was in the port of Santa Cruz. As soon as the Vanderbilt, which was in St. Thomas, heard of it, she got up steam and hurried out in the prosecution of her enemy, and the combat must have taken place on her arrival at that place, as a heavy firing was heard in the direction of Santa Cruz. On the occasion of the commanding inhabitants waited with anxiety for the return of the Vanderbilt in order to learn the results of the battle, but on the departure of the English steamer she had not returned, on account of which some inferred that she had been captured or sunk by her adversary, while others supposed that the Alabama had been conquered (captured). We shall soon learn what there is of truth in it."

More particularly we soon learn the truth, as the English mail steamer will be in tomorrow from St. Thomas and as certain important dispatches were forwarded hence, in all probability the Vanderbilt will soon anchor in our port, and here learn of the naval combat spoken of in the Puerto Rico *Boletin* of the 3d, which has already several times given us false reports in regard to the Alabama and the Florida. It may be that Semmes, thinking that the whole fleet would go to San Fernando Noronha, has come to these waters, but our "flying squadron" does not move so fast, and at last accounts meet of it was in the neighborhood of St. Thomas, save the Junta, the flagship without a flag.

By the Spanish steamer came at last the order for the demolition of the walls about the city, but there are many objections which the Government has to contend with. The land on which they stand was ceded to the Government by individuals for the particular purpose of fortifications, with the clause that when they should no longer be so used or needed they should revert to the original owners or heirs. These lands are principally owned by two families, one named Yanez, and the other Cevallo, who claim them; but their claim will probably be set aside arbitrarily, as has already been done on similar occasions.

An important article, which has caused quite a sensation, appeared in the *Siglo de Thursday*, the 15th. It exposes a strong monopolizing position of grocers which was formed in 1857, and which has increased in strength, wringing its ill-gotten gains from consumers, and declaring semi-annual dividends of 44 per cent. Only grocers were received and were called partners. They established what is virtually a bank, and is so called, though having no charter. They deny that it is a bank, but say it is a commercial firm of many partners, styled A. Boster & Co. They have done a regular banking business, however, and have succeeded in laying down the law to all importers and consumers of groceries, including potatoes, onions, beans, etc. Merchants have had to submit. There are two or three articles in preparation for publication, which, as they will materially interest your readers, shippers of such commodities to this port, and a number of the public in general, I shall translate and send you per *Almanac* next week. Today the *Siglo*, which is a most impartial paper, gives room to a very weak communication, a pseudo refutation and denial of the existence of such a monopoly, or mercantile oligarchy, as it might be called. The defense, however, is so poor as to strengthen the attack—weak detection of nothing and water.

The verbal fireworks between the *Prensa* and the *Siglo* still fire now and then, but amount to little. The former launched such a torrent of abuse upon the latter that it withdrew, but nevertheless published the road and name of the party to which All this has decreased the subscription list of the *Prensa*, and increased that of the *Siglo*. The former in one article referring to the French in Mexico, says it earnestly hopes they will succeed, and there, by form a strong framework to keep off the Yankee invader, who casts a longing eye toward the jewel in the crown of Spain.

June 11.—Sailed. Confederate s.s. Clemente for Nassau.

June 12.—Arrived. Confederate s.s. Alice. 9 days from Tampa, 4 tons, with cotton (three quarters of a bale).

June 13.—Sailed. Confederate s.s. Fashion for Nassau.

June 14.—Arrived. Confederate s.s. Alice. 9 days from Mobile, 37 tons, with cotton (three quarters of a bale).

June 15.—Sailed. Anglo-Caledon. s.s. Sun Nan, for Nassau.

FROM THE SOUTHERN BLOCKADE.

**Affairs off Charleston—Position of Our Fleet.**

Correspondence of The N.Y. Tribune.

GUNBOAT CHIEFWA, CAPT. BYRON, OFF CHARLESTON, JUNE 19, 1863.

We arrived off Fort Sumter the 10th. The passage up from Port Royal, 40 miles, is along the same low, level coast. Blocking vessels are scattered along. Off Fort Sumter we met the Ironsides, Powhatan, Ottawa, Marblehead, and one or two others. Fort Sumter stands out in bold relief, but Charleston is on such a low level that only the spires of churches can be seen from our vessels. Fort Moultrie is not plainly visible, and but few vessels are in sight. Opposite Fort Sumter, and within cannon range, is a strip of land defended by batteries. The new Rebel flag looks to be white in the distance to the naked eye. The Rebels sent up rockets last night, and fired cannon this morning. I am rejoiced to hear that Admiral Foote is coming down on the Tuscarora. If he, who did so much with the gunboats on our Western rivers, cannot effect anything, if properly supported, then Charleston may be deemed impregnable. At any rate, I do not believe that seamen will ever complain of his not giving them all the fighting they want, if there is any possible chance of success. Besides, he is a Christian and a gentleman, as well as a fighting man. The Mounts are at Eddystone Inlet, a few miles from here. The Weehawken is at Port Royal, probably to protect the shipping from ram that might come down the river around from Charleston. A blockade-runner was taken (rumor) might before last, a little below this place. Details of the fight at Charleston, from official reports the public are conversant with; but there are among seamen opinions and stories widely differing from those of officers, and probably often incorrect, in which case they ought not to be published; while, if true, they should be.

The officers say that the Ironsides will not steer in shoal water, become almost unmanageable, was tangled up among the Mounts, and had the greatest difficulty in getting out. The story among the men is that the pilot acquainted with the harbor was exchanged for the Wabash pilot; that she answere her helm very quick, and wants good helmsmen to new her quickly that some of the Powhatans' men volunteered to go and steer her; that she just got away, so that an officer is under arrest for calling Admiral Du Pont a coward, and that an English steamer has since brought the news that they telegraphed from Fort Sumter to Beauregard that they could not hold out more than half an hour longer. In short, they say that Fort Sumter ought to have been taken, and that the only effect of the attack was to show the enemy their weak points and give them time to remedy them.

Last night, our second on the blockade, we had a great steamer from a supposed Port Royal, which had to be repaired by the rebels, and the steamer was exchanged for our propeller. They were not quite sure, and when seen she was pretty close to us.

The greatest excitement prevailed. On the

steamer, evidently, heading for us amidships, Every one supposed the Chippewa's doom was settled. All hands were called to

quarters and orders instantly given to slip cables, fire a gun, and start the engines. The first and second orders were not carried out, which rendered it a third useless. The gun-primer was not at hand, and the slips to the cables not attended to. But it been a time she would have run us in two. As the Rebels can plainly see the number and position of our vessels from the fort and shore, they send out signals several miles along the south shore entrance to the harbor, to reconnoitre. It will be strange to state that the Ironsides and seven or eight vessels are anchored off nearest Fort Sumter and the harbor, and that the Chippewa and five or six others are several miles distant along the north shore entrance. All the excitement and noise is about range, especially as they once saluted and captured the Meridian. I hope they will soon be made out of Charleston and Fort Sumter, so that this nest of rams and blockade-runners will be broken up. They still send up rockets nights and build large fires, perhaps as signals to blockade-runners outside. A Monitor might be of service here, but the ground swell and roll is such that it is probably not considered a proper place, especially as the ironclad is said to be of service to the weather. That a ram might sail out some dark night, cause some destruction, and return before the Ironsides could make her way to the scene of conflict, is possible. We are about two miles from shore, in three fathoms water. In heavy gales it is said the breakers extend clear across the channel, eighteen feet in depth, from bar to bar.

Thunder showers occur nearly every night, but the weather is not very hot, on account of the sea breeze. We have had a constant succession of thunder showers at night since our arrival at Port Royal. May not such an immense amount of metal concentrated here, in the monitors, ironclads, and guns of vessels, forts, and batteries, couple with the heat of the climate, have something to do in collecting this electricity.

June 14.—There has been heavy firing at long intervals for the last two or three days, by our troops and batteries on the point below here, against the Rebels, who are endeavoring to build batteries to drive them off. The particulars I have not learned, and as the mail leaves this afternoon, I send this, with its dearth of news, but if Admiral Foote makes its appearance, you may expect to hear of something worth printing. A flag of truce was sent from our vessels this morning, and met by the Rebels. I do not know the occasion of it. Com. Turner is senior officer here, and Capt. Taylor second. The South Carolina, Capt. Almy, is also here.

L. H. V.

## COMMERCIAL MATTERS.

## SALES AT THE STOCK EXCHANGE—JUNE 24.

100 U.S. \$5.50 Cents...101	100 Buicks Co. Lead Co....11
1,200 Treasury 7-10 4%...102	1,200 Hudson River R. R. ....102
Notes...Oct. & April 1863...103	do...103
100 U.S. 1-year notes...104	do...104
100 U.S. 6-month notes...105	do...105
100 Brooklyn City W. L. 11%...106	do...106
100 Texas State Co. 6%...107	do...107
100 Michigan Central R. R. 7-1/2%...108	do...108
100 Erie Railway 7-1/2%...109	do...109
100 Michigan Central R. R. 7-1/2%...110	do...110
100 Michigan Central R. R. 7-1/2%...111	do...111
100 Missouri State Co. 6%...112	do...112
100 do...113	do...113
100 Louisiana State Co. 6%...114	do...114
100 do...115	do...115
100 New York C. & P. 7-1/2%...116	do...116
100 do...117	do...117
100 do...118	do...118
100 do...119	do...119
100 do...120	do...120
100 do...121	do...121
100 do...122	do...122
100 do...123	do...123
100 do...124	do...124
100 do...125	do...125
100 do...126	do...126
100 do...127	do...127
100 do...128	do...128
100 do...129	do...129
100 do...130	do...130
100 do...131	do...131
100 do...132	do...132
100 do...133	do...133
100 do...134	do...134
100 do...135	do...135
100 do...136	do...136
100 do...137	do...137
100 do...138	do...138
100 do...139	do...139
100 do...140	do...140
100 do...141	do...141
100 do...142	do...142
100 do...143	do...143
100 do...144	do...144
100 do...145	do...145
100 do...146	do...146
100 do...147	do...147
100 do...148	do...148
100 do...149	do...149
100 do...150	do...150
100 do...151	do...151
100 do...152	do...152
100 do...153	do...153
100 do...154	do...154
100 do...155	do...155
100 do...156	do...156
100 do...157	do...157
100 do...158	do...158
100 do...159	do...159
100 do...160	do...160
100 do...161	do...161
100 do...162	do...162
100 do...163	do...163
100 do...164	do...164
100 do...165	do...165
100 do...166	do...166
100 do...167	do...167
100 do...168	do...168
100 do...169	do...169
100 do...170	do...170
100 do...171	do...171
100 do...172	do...172
100 do...173	do...173
100 do...174	do...174
100 do...175	do...175
100 do...176	do...176
100 do...177	do...177
100 do...178	do...178
100 do...179	do...179
100 do...180	do...180
100 do...181	do...181
100 do...182	do...182
100 do...183	do...183
100 do...184	do...184
100 do...185	do...185
100 do...186	do...186
100 do...187	do...187
100 do...188	do...188
100 do...189	do...189
100 do...190	do...190
100 do...191	do...191
100 do...192	do...192
100 do...193	do...193
100 do...194	do...194
100 do...195	do...195
100 do...196	do...196
100 do...197	do...197
100 do...198	do...198
100 do...199	do...199
100 do...200	do...200
100 do...201	do...201
100 do...202	do...202
100 do...203	do...203
100 do...204	do...204
100 do...205	do...205
100 do...206	do...206
100 do...207	do...207
100 do...208	do...208
100 do...209	do...209
100 do...210	do...210
100 do...211	do...211
100 do...212	do...212
100 do...213	do...213
100 do...214	do...214
100 do...215	do...215
100 do...216	do...216
100 do...217	do...217
100 do...218	do...218
100 do...219	do...219
100 do...220	do...220
100 do...221	do...221
100 do...222	do...222
100 do...223	do...223
100 do...224	do...224
100 do...225	do...225
100 do...226	do...226
100 do...227	do...227
100 do...228	do...228
100 do...229	do...229
100 do...230	do...230
100 do...231	do...231
100 do...232	do...232
100 do...233	do...233
100 do...234	do...234
100 do...235	do...2